

ALLEY SG July 6-7, 2024

Due to summer scheduling, these activities can be done in small groups or in one large group.

1. Bible Story Extension

What You Need: “Jingle Bell Strips (2-3 sets per group), “Jingle Bell Review” Answer Key

What You Do:

- Divide kids into smaller groups.
- Give each group a baggie with the strips from the “Jingle Bell Review” page
- When you say “Go” have the kids take the strips out and put them in the order the situations happened in today’s Bible story.
- Use the answer key from the bin to talk through each situation together and see if the groups got them correct.
- Ask kids to think of ways they can share joy with someone this week.
- Continue allowing kids to share as time allows.

2. Share the Joy

What You Need: Index cards, pens

What You Do:

- Remind kids that at Christmas time there tends to be a big focus on giving and helping others but that we can and should be doing that all year long.
- Tell kids that today’s “Christmas in July” celebration is a great reminder that Jesus brought joy to the world and still brings joy to the world.
- Give each kid an index card and a pen.
- Encourage them to think of someone in their lives who could use some joy. Tell them to write the name of that person on the index card.
- Ask kids to think about ways they can share joy with that person and list their ideas on the index card.
- Challenge kids to take their cards home as a reminder to pray for the person they thought of throughout the week. They could pray for opportunities to share joy with them.

3. Discussion Questions

- How did Jesus bring joy to the world?
- How can you have joy when things aren’t going your way?
- Who do you know who could use some joy?
- How can you help others have joy?

4. Party Charades

What You Need: “Party Charades” Cards

What You Do:

- Select one kid to go first by choosing a card from the “Party Charades” Activity Page without letting anyone else see.
- Explain that they should act out the type of party that is written on their card, using only actions (not words or sounds).

- Direct the rest of the kids in the group to guess what type of party it is.
- Once the correct answer has been guessed, choose another kid to take a turn.
- Continue until everyone in the group has had a turn, or as time allows.
- Ask:
 - Why is it challenging to have joy sometimes in our ordinary, everyday situations?
 - What can help you choose joy?
 - Are you more likely to feel joyful when you focus on spreading joy or God's love with others around you? If so, why?

AT THE 5- MINUTE CALL:

PRAY

- Ask, "Does anyone have any prayer requests or things they want to thank God for from this week? *(Let the kids share their prayer requests and praises)*
- Take some time to pray for these things as a group, then finish with the prayer below...

*"God, thank You for sending Your Son, Jesus. Because **Jesus brings joy to the world**, we know that no matter what, we can choose to celebrate what You are doing in the midst of our every day. We are thankful that we can bring our everyday moments to You—our sadness, our frustrations, our anger, our happiness, our laughter, and even our hurt. We trust that no matter what our days look like, You are working out something good. And because of this truth, we can choose joy. We can choose to celebrate knowing You are always doing something good behind the scenes. We love You and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen."*

- If there is still time, pass out the Parent Discussion Guides to the kids and begin to read through them together. Remind them they can do the activity at home to bring back next week for a prize.

PARENT PICK UP POINT: As adults arrive to pick up, ask the kids to answer this question, "Who can you show joy to this week?"